

## April 24, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

### **Attendees:**

Matthew Conley – 3M	John Peeler- 3M
Geoff Huff-Ames PD	Chuck Cychosz- Ames PD
Jared Brackens- Ames PD	Anna Ernst- Ames PD
Maggie Jennett-Ames PD	Rich Higgins-Ames FD
Sara Van Meeteren-Ames FD	Doug Allen-Ames FD
Tom Hackett- Ames FD	Robert Steffes- USDA Ames
Jason Ziph-Ames Fire	Deanna Thomas- Bayer Crop Science
Jeff Mann- Danfoss	Anthony Cade-Danfoss
Mary Navratil- Essential Water Services	Nicole Harris- GFS
Brian Beck- GFS	Rob Schwarzenbach- Heartland Companies
Jill Sailer- Heartland Companies	Angie Jewett – Iowa State University
EH&SClayton Oliver-ISU EH&S	Nathan Easter- ISU Research Park
Gary Klukow- Kreg Tool	Chris Perrin – Mary Greeley Medical Center
Maria Melendez- Merck Animal Health	Lauris Olson- Story Co BOS
Rawlin Kinney- Syngenta	Kathleen Komis- Syngenta
Justin Young- Syngenta	Brett Calloway- Syngenta
Kyle Vander Molen- Syngenta	Keith Morgan- EMA
Melissa Spencer – SCEMA	

### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM by Secretary Spencer with a welcome.

### **Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

Motion by Jewett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Olson to approve the November minutes and the April agenda. MCU

### **Guest Speaker:** Steve Flann-Vermeer Tornado Response and Recovery

Mr. Flann provided an overview of the company, lessons learned, and information on how the company recovered in the aftermath of a multi-vortex tornado.

Vermeer has 3200 employees between two shifts spread across a mile long campus in separate buildings. The day the tornado struck, the plant was experiencing shift change, with a maximum number of employees, some of their children, and an additional 450 people from around the globe on site celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the plant.

A lesson learned is the importance of having several staff deep trained in the Incident Command System (ICS). Out of three individuals trained within the plant, only one individual was on site the day of the tornado. These individuals will be in command of the site until first responders arrive on scene and transition to a Unified Command System. The company's planning started at 2:30PM when the NWS issued tornado watches. They conducted 30 seconds of planning based upon plant policies and procedures. This planning made the difference in

keeping employees and guests safe and only having seven minor injuries with the worst being a broken leg.

A lesson learned was when and how people should exit the shelters once the tornado or storm moved off and if the plant sustained damages. Once the storm moved off, they provided direction via radio to leave the shelters immediately due to gas leaks. They have now added procedures for how to leave the shelter and exit the building safely through gas leaks and sharp debris. Over 400,000 feet of production was lost with three buildings considered destroyed. One building included their most profitable production line. Hoists and cranes built into the buildings helped support the buildings after the strike, which allowed employees to leave the shelters. Vermeer has several FEMA rated sheltering sites throughout the plant that are dual use for break rooms.

Communications and accountability was another gap in reviewing the incident. Having several methods of communication beyond the cell phone system, which will be overloaded, is critical. They were able to continue communication with in the plant on their own radio system. They used texting to communicate with employees. For accountability, each employee is trained to know who is supposed to be standing next to them at rally points. They have a military like structure that moves the information up the chain of command. During this event, they did actually go to employees' homes to ensure they were accounted for if when not found to be on site.

Prepare for communication with the public immediately after the event. Pictures, video and rumors will be on social media as soon as the incident happens. Be ready to share positive information about what occurred as much of the information shared by others may be negative.

The local first responder agencies are well trained and had a rapid response from previous reviews of the plant. Even with well-trained responders, there was an identified need to conduct more exercise and training with all first responders at one time. Identifying one radio channel where the business can communicate with first responders is important during response operations. There is now one channel where they can communicate directly with the first responders who may respond to the plant.

The plant has the capability to isolate the power and gas for each building. However, it takes time to get to the trained personnel to each building to shut off each line. They were very lucky the day of the tornado that there happened to be an Alliant Energy technician in the immediate area that responded to shut off the gas main at the road. The storm destroyed the electrical transformers for the plant so there was a minimal electrical risk inside the plant. They do not have the capability to shut off the gas and electricity from the mains. They are working with the gas and power companies to determine if they may have the tools and training to shut off the utilities at the main. Having a clear understanding of where gas and electrical shutoffs are located and how to turn them off safely is important.

During the recovery process, the company established a "Red Zone" around the buildings where only preapproved staff were allowed and they were accompanied by an EH&S team

member and structural engineers could enter. Other issues during the recovery process were asbestos abatement, training to enter the red zone, personal protective equipment (PPE), bathrooms and transportation around the plant.

The most important thing to do is plan. Look for a single point of failure or high priority operations, identify contingency plans, and test them. Include local first responders in your plans and exercises.

### **Old Business:**

#### **LEPC Bylaws:**

Spencer and Conley are still working on the draft. Work schedules have not allowed them to finish the work. Will send out a draft for comment as soon as they are complete.

### **New Business:**

Keith Morgan briefed a new initiative by Story County Emergency Management to form a Business Resilience Committee. The objective of the committee is to bring together businesses to provide them information that will allow them to reduce their risk to disasters and to be better prepared to respond to emergencies. Additionally, it is hoped that the committee will also be able to develop processes to work with businesses during disasters to disseminate information and coordinate assistance from business. Companies wanting to participate in the Business Resilience Committee are encourage to contact Story County Emergency Management at 515 382 7315.

#### **ESF 10-HazMat Approval**

As this plan is reviewed each year, it has been refined to the point where few updates needed. There were minimal changes again this year. Motion by Olson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jewett to approve ESF 10 as presented. MCU

#### **Training**

On May 21 & 23, Mary Greeley Medical Center is hosting a Stop the Bleed classes in the Atrium Conference room A. There is no cost for the class and no registration process. The class is a two hour session and provides training for those who wish to be instructors. Contact Chris Perrin if you have questions.

On April 29 & 30, Mary Greeley is hosting Medical Preparedness and Response for WMD class. There is some space left so contact Chris Perrin if interested.

#### **Exercises**

On May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM, Mary Greeley will be conducting a tabletop exercise to walk through an agriculture chemical response. This will be very focused on this specific type of incident.

On October 15, Mary Greeley will be conducting a health care provider exercise for Boone and Story County agencies. Details on the scenario and time are still being worked out. The annual

exercise meets state and federal requirements for health care agencies to exercise agency emergency plans. More information will be coming.

### **IDNR reported spills**

**11/05/18 Ames Power Plant**, 500 gallon Sulfuric Acid Leak. An underground pipe breach drained acid into the soil. The acid stayed within the property and the city completed the remediation. They met EPA & DNR reporting requirements. They did not have to report to the LEPC as it stayed contained to their property.

Additional spills were diesel fuel from accidents or antifreeze from buses in Ames. ISU EH&S assisted with the remediation of the spill that ended at Beech and S 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Other**

Since the February meeting was rescheduled to April, is there a desire to have the next regular meeting in May or wait until August. Motion by Kinney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jewett to not have the May meeting and wait until August. MCU

**Next meeting:** August 22, 2019 1:30PM Location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn by Kinney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jewett, MCU at 3:16pm.